

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 48, the paragraph beginning at line 12 through line 20, please replace with following paragraph:

The heating of the front glass substrate 11 can be performed in a normal air atmosphere although it can alternatively be performed as shown in FIG. ~~7~~ 11. In FIG. ~~7~~ 11, the heating apparatus 110 is equipped with a gas supply line 111 and a gas exhaust line 112, and the front glass substrate 11 is heated while an oxidizing gas (such as oxygen or an air with high oxygen pressure) is being supplied from the gas supply line 111. In this way, the surface oxidizing process can be performed in a shorter period.